

Remarks

The Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the rejections asserted in the previous Office Action, and for allowing claims 4 and 9.

The current Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 7, 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Examiner states that "the specification, while being enabling for a monoclonal antibody that binds an epitope between residues 22 to 34 of SEQ ID NO:1 . . . does not reasonably provide enablement for a a monoclonal antibody that binds to just any residues of 1 to 1444 or 1 to 72 or 22 to 22 of SEQ ID NO:1."

The Applicants respectfully disagree. The Examiner cites three prior art references for the proposition that "not all regions of a protein can be used to elicit apoptotic antibodies and in fact only certain epitopes can." But the Applicants do not claim antibodies that recognize *all* regions of the G3BP protein and induce apoptosis. Their invention, rather, is directed to antibodies that recognize an epitope within a specific region of G3BP, that defined by amino acids 1-144 of SEQ ID NO:1. The claims expressly incorporate this limitation. Further dependent claims specify an even smaller region (e.g., amino acids 1 to 72 in claim 3, and amino acids 22-55 in claim 13).

The Examiner's position further implies that because antibodies directed against some proteins – Apo-2 and Her2 – differ in their ability to induce apoptosis, antibodies directed against a particular region of G3BP will also differ; his position implies, moreover, that they will differ so greatly that undue experimentation is required to identify one that induces apoptosis. But this is not necessarily the case. In fact, one can expect a reasonable degree of success that antibodies recognizing the region defined by amino acids 1-144 of SEQ ID NO:1 will induce apoptosis. Generating an antibody that meets the limitations of the claims is therefore well within the skill of the art, and requires no undue experimentation.

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The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request early, favorable action on the application. Should the Examiner believe that an interview would advance the prosecution of this application, the Applicants invite him to contact the undersigned at (908) 231-3444.

Respectfully submitted,



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